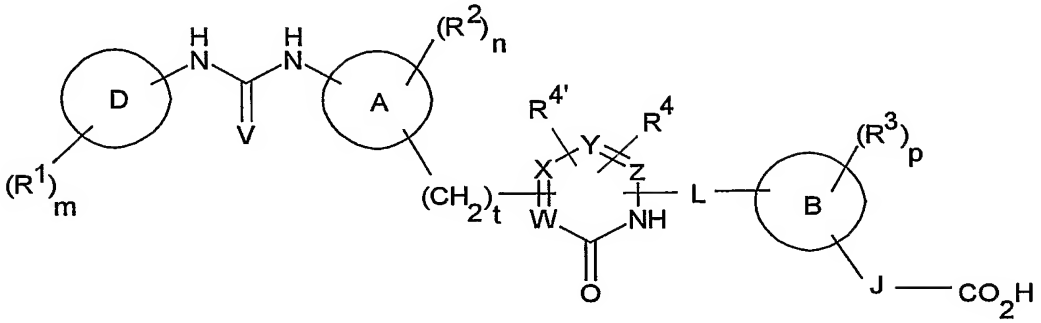
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof:



(I)

wherein

A, B and D are independently aryl or heteroaryl;

R^1, R^2 and R^3 are independently C_{1-6}alkyl, halogen, C_{1-6}alkoxy, hydroxy, cyano, CF_3, OCF_3, nitro, C_{1-6}alkylthio, amino, mono- or di-C_{1-6}alkylamino, carboxy, C_{1-6}alkanoyl, amido, mono or di-C_{1-6}alkyl amido, $-NHCOR^9$ or $-NHSO_2R^9$ {in which R^9 is C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl or phenyl (optionally substituted by up to three groups selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, halogen, C_{1-6}alkoxy, cyano, phenyl and CF_3)} or is a group $-E-(CH_2)_{1-6}NR^xR^y$ (in which E is a single bond or $-OCH_2-$ and R^x and R^y are independently hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl or combine together to form a 5 - 7 membered heterocyclic ring);

R^4 and $R^{4'}$ are independently hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, halogen or C_{1-6}alkoxy;

V is O, S, NH, N-C_{1-6}alkyl, NNO_2 or NCN;

W, X, Y and Z are independently C, CH or N, subject to the proviso that at least one of X, Y and Z is N;

L is $-(CH_2)_q-$ or $-(CH_2)_{q'}O-$ where q is 0, 1, 2 or 3 and q' is 2 or 3;

J is (i) a group - $CR^5 = CR^6-$ where R^5 and R^6 are independently hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl;

(ii) a group $-CHR^7-CHR^8-$ where R^7 and R^8 are independently hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, a group $-NHCOR^9$ or $-NHSO_2R^9$ in which R^9 is as defined above or a group $-(CH_2)_{1-6}NR^xR^y$ in which R^x and R^y are as defined above;

(iii) a single bond;

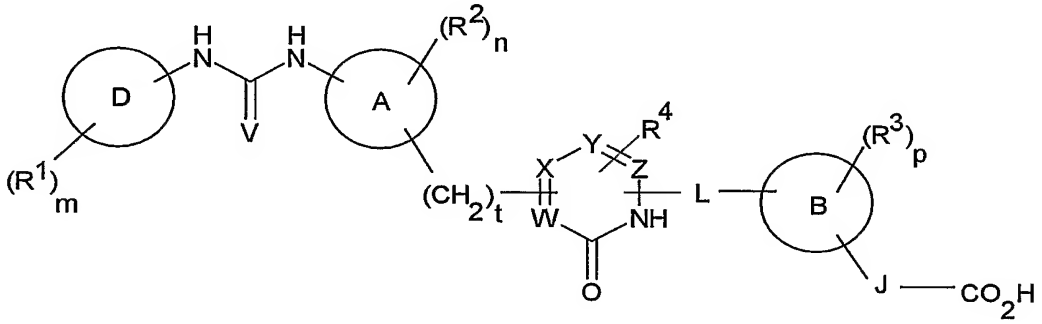
(iv) $-CHR^6-$ where R^6 is as defined above; or

(v) a group $-O-CHR^{10}-$, $-NR^{11}-CHR^{10}-$ or $-CR^{12}R^{13}-CHR^{10}-$ where R^{10} and R^{11} are independently hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl and R^{12} and R^{13} are independently C_{1-6}alkyl or R^{12} and R^{13} combine together to form a C_{3-7}cycloalkyl or a 5 - 7 membered heterocyclic ring;

m, n and p are independently 0, 1, 2 or 3; and

t is 0, 1 or 2.

2. The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is of formula (I') or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof:



(I')

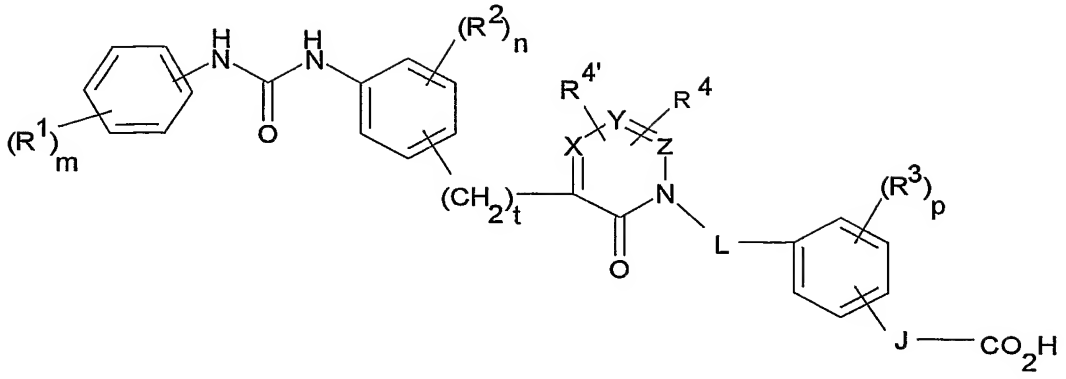
in which $R^1 - R^4$, m, n, p, t, A, B, D, L, J, V, W, X, Y and Z are as defined in formula (I).

3. The compound according to claim 1 or 2, wherein A is phenyl or pyridyl.

4. The compound according to any of the preceding claims, wherein B is phenyl.

5. The compound according to any of the preceding claims, wherein D is phenyl or pyridyl.

6. The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is of formula (Ia) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof:

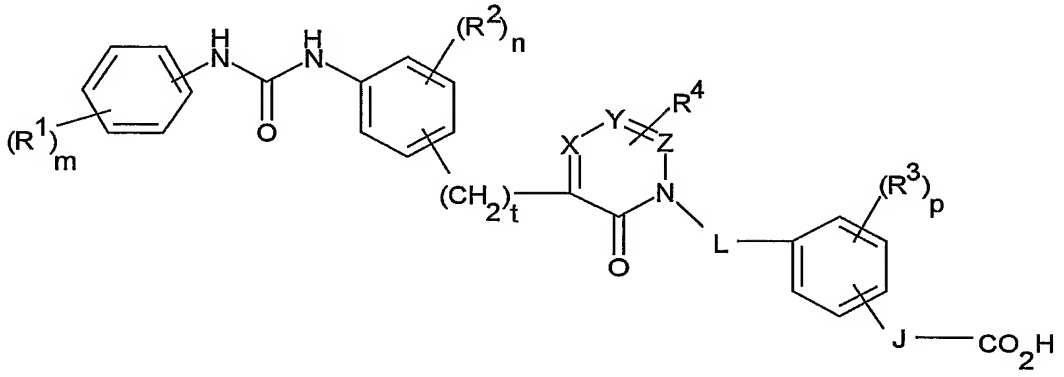


(Ia)

in which:

R^1 - R^4, $R^{4'}$, L, J, X, Y, Z, m, n, p and t are as defined in formula (I).

7. The compound according to claim 6, wherein the compound is of formula (Ia') or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof:



(Ia')

in which:

R^1 – R^4, L, J, X, Y, Z, m, n, p and t are as defined in formula (I).

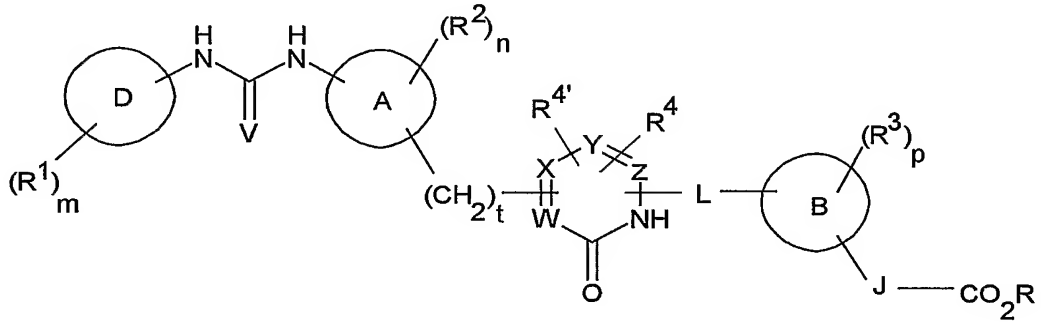
8. The compound according to any of the preceding claims in which R^1, R^2 and R^3 are, independently, selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6}alkyl, halogen, C_{1-6}alkoxy, cyano and CF_3.

9. The compound according to any of the preceding claims in which J is selected from the group consisting of -CH = CH-, $-(CH_2)_2-$ and $-CHR^7-CH_2-$ in which R^7 is C_{1-6}alkyl.

10. The compound according to any of the preceding claims in which L is $-(CH_2)_q-$ where q is 0, 1, 2 or 3.

11. The compound according to claim 1 which is selected from the group consisting of E1 - E18 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof

12. A process for the preparation of the compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof which comprises hydrolysis of a carboxylic acid ester derivative of formula (II):



(II)

in which R^1 - R^4, $R^{4'}$, m, n, p, t, A, B, D, L, J, V, W, X, Y and Z are as defined in formula (I) and R is a group capable of forming a carboxylic acid ester and optionally thereafter forming a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

13. The compound according to any one of claims 1 to 11 for use in therapy.

14. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of the compound according to any one of claims 1 to 11 in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

15. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound according to any one of claims 1 - 11 together with another therapeutically active agent.

16. A use of the compound according to any one of claims 1 to 11 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of conditions in which an inhibitor of α_4 integrin mediated cell adhesion is beneficial.

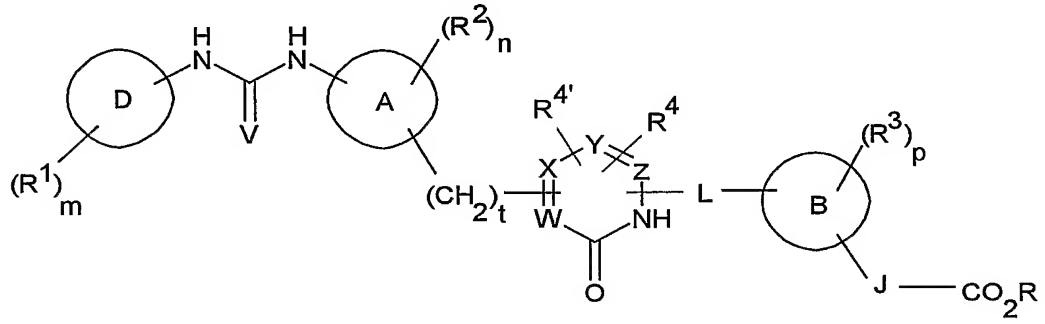
17. A method for the treatment or prevention of conditions in which an inhibitor of α_4 integrin mediated cell adhesion is beneficial which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof a safe and effective amount of the compound according to any one of claims 1 to 11.

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein said condition is selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis (RA); asthma; allergic conditions such as rhinitis; adult respiratory distress syndrome; AIDS-dementia; Alzheimer's disease; cardiovascular diseases; thrombosis or harmful platelet aggregation; reocclusion following thrombolysis; reperfusion injury; skin inflammatory diseases such as psoriasis, eczema, contact dermatitis and atopic dermatitis; diabetes (e.g., insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, autoimmune diabetes); multiple sclerosis; systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE); inflammatory bowel disease such as ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease (regional enteritis) and pouchitis (for example, resulting after proctocolectomy and ileoanal anastomosis); diseases associated with leukocyte infiltration to the gastrointestinal tract such as Celiac disease, nontropical Sprue, enteropathy associated with seronegative arthropathies, lymphocytic or collagenous colitis, and eosinophilic gastroenteritis; diseases associated with leukocyte infiltration to other epithelial lined tissues, such as skin, urinary tract, respiratory airway, and joint synovium; pancreatitis; mastitis (mammary gland); hepatitis; cholecystitis; cholangitis or pericholangitis (bile duct and surrounding tissue of the liver); bronchitis; sinusitis; inflammatory diseases of the lung which result in interstitial fibrosis, such as hypersensitivity pneumonitis; collagen disease (in SLE and RA); sarcoidosis; osteoporosis; osteoarthritis; atherosclerosis; neoplastic diseases including metastasis of neoplastic or cancerous growth; wound healing enhancement; certain eye diseases such as retinal detachment, allergic conjunctivitis and autoimmune uveitis; Sjogren's syndrome; rejection (chronic and acute) after organ transplantation; host vs. graft or graft vs. host

diseases; intimal hyperplasia; arteriosclerosis (including graft arteriosclerosis after transplantation); reinfarction or restenosis after surgery such as percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA) and percutaneous transluminal artery recanalization; nephritis; tumor angiogenesis; malignant tumor; multiple myeloma and myeloma-induced bone resorption; sepsis; and central nervous system injury such as stroke, traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury and Meniere's disease.

19. The method according to claim 17, wherein said condition is asthma, allergic conditions, inflammatory bowel disease, rheumatoid arthritis, atopic dermatitis, multiple sclerosis or rejection after organ transplantation.

20. A compound of formula (II):



(II)

in which R^1 - R^4, $R^{4'}$, m, n, p, t, A, B, D, L, J, V, W, X, Y and Z are as defined in formula (I) and R is a group capable of forming a carboxylic acid ester.